FEB 0 3 2004

mage \$1.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

| Application Number | 09/686,958 |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Filing Date | 10/12/00 |
| First Named Inventor | Shinsuke NAKAJYO et al |
| Group Art Unit | 2824 |
| Name of Examiner | Michael K. Luhrs |
| Attorney Docket No. | 001344 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule. 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat Office (April 11, 2000) which established RCE practice.

| a. Previously submitted | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on <u>December 3, 2004</u> (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered) |
| | ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on |
| | iii. Dother |
|). | Enclosed |
| | i. ☐ Preliminary Submission/Amendment/Reply |
| | ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) |
| | iii. □ Information Disclosure Statement; PTO1449; references |
| | iv. Other Petition for Extension of Time |
| | Miscellaneous |
| • | □ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required) |
| ١. | □ Other |
| 3. | Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed. |
| | The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340 |
| | i. ■ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) ii. ■ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) |
| | iii. Other |
| | ■ Check in the amount of \$1190.00 (\$770.00 for the filing fee and \$420.00 for the extension of time) is enclosed. |

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

PAGE 2

Atty Docket No.

001344

Name Donald W. Hanson Registration No. 27,133 Signature Date February 3, 2004 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, BOX RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: Name Signature

Fax: (202) 887-0357